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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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VA Black Hills Health Care System hosts Veterans Stand Down and Benefits Fair

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System will host a Veterans Stand Down and Benefits Fair on Thursday, June 10. The event will be open to all Veterans from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the High School Gym in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

The Stand Down and Benefits Fair, according to Rodger Woeppel, at VA Black Hills Health Care System, is intended to serve homeless and needy Veterans from the Pine Ridge Reservation. There is no charge for any of the services. “It is a hand up, rather than a hand out, extended by a caring community in tribute to all warriors of the Oglala Sioux Tribe,” said Woeppel.

The Information and Benefits Fair, held on June 10th is an outreach effort to bring information regarding services and benefits available to Veterans. Representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Office will be on-site to provide priority processing on all benefit claims submitted during the stand down.

The event is a collaborative effort between the VA Black Hills Health Care System, South Dakota Division of Veterans Affairs, South Dakota Career Center, Black Hills National Cemetery, Veterans Benefits Administration, South Dakota Veterans Home, Oglala Sioux Tribe and the American Legion.

A variety of personal care items will be available to anyone wishing a hand up, and a complimentary snack will be served. Staff will be available to hear issues, answer questions, and provide information on VA benefits, programs and health care enrollment opportunities. Basic health services will be provided, including blood sugar testing and blood pressure screening. Veterans will also be able to make future health care appointments at VA Black Hills. Veterans who have not previously enrolled with the VA are requested to bring a copy of their military discharge papers, DD 214, to the Benefits Fair.

For more information about the Stand Down at Pine Ridge, contact Rodger Woeppel at (605) 745-2000 Ext. 9-2114 or Frank Marshall at (605) 867-5577.

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